

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Warner, what are the number of pennies on gasoline apart from the variable tax rate and the excise and this penny.

SENATOR WARNER: Ten and a half cents is what you could call the fixed amount which is divided 53 1/3 to the state, 26 1/3 to the cities, 26 1/3 to the counties. And then there is currently one cent of tax that is divided 50-50 between the cities and the counties, and the current variable is 4.4 cents for a total tax currently of 15.9.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Is there any federal tax in there?

SENATOR WARNER: Federal tax is apart. That is state tax only, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So there is some additional tax, though, but that is from the federal government.

SENATOR WARNER: Right, plus the federal funds are primarily...well, that is used in a variety of ways, too.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Does the amount of the tax...how much is the federal tax, is it 5 cents or more?

SENATOR WARNER: It was...5 cents is what they added last year on top of their, well, what was it, 8, can't remember, if it was 8 cents or 5 cents. I think it was 5 cents before and it is a total of 10 now.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you. So that would be about 26 cents in taxes on a gallon of gasoline, 26 cents in taxes on a gallon of gasoline, and that is not a percentage. It is a flat amount. So if the cost of gasoline for some reason should drop to 30 cents, 25 cents of it would be tax, Senator Hannibal. I know that this bill is going to move, too. I wish that it wouldn't. When you continue to add these amounts to gasoline, the public is not going to be aware of it, and I think all of us here know that. I had an idea of the total amount of the tax on a gallon of gasoline but I wasn't sure and yet I sit down in this body and year after year the issue comes up of how much the variable gas